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Title: Need to expedite construction work of Handloom Textile Park in Virudhunagar parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The Union Government has identified Virudhunagar in the southern part of Tamil Nadu to set up the first handloom textile park in the country. The Union Government had also announced in the year 2009 to set up 5 such parks across the country. The foundation stone had been laid and some construction work had also been started to set up the handloom textile park in Virudhunagar with an investment of Rs. 4750 million. It would likely to provide employment to 50,000 people in the locality. Apart from this, the State Government of Tamilnadu is also investing Rs. 250 million to train weavers in modern design and technology through National Institute of Fashion Technology, Chennai.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government that no action has been taken to complete the work relating to setting up of Handloom Textile Park in Virudhunagar. Virudhunagar Parliamentary Constituency in Tamilnadu has many educated, skilled and semiÂ skilled unemployed youths who are forced to migrate to other parts of the country for their employment and business. Lots of problems are being faced by the weavers, handlooms and power looms industries in this constituency and its neighboring areas. Recently, there were incidents of suicides by the power loom weavers in my constituency due to lack of regular jobs, inadequate wages, indebtedness and resultant harassment by the micro-finance companies, closure of power loom units on account of piling of unlifted stock and non-availability of loans from banks.

If the proposed Textile Park is established, all the weaving families will be benefited and this will turn this industrially backward constituency into a developing industrial constituency. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to expedite the work relating to setting up of a Handloom Textile Park in Virudhunagar at the earliest.

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